

**FEBRUARY****2003 AGENDA**

SUBJECT Request to Fund the Recommended List of Public Charter Schools Grant Program Award Recipients	X	ACTION
		INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends that the State Board of Education (SBE) approve funding for the recommended list of charter schools grant applications.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

The Public Charter Schools Grant Program (PCSGP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and provides grant awards for the final planning and initial implementation of public charter schools, and for the dissemination of best practices developed in charter schools to charter and traditional schools.

In September 2001, the U.S. Department of Education awarded California a three-year grant in the amount of \$72 million, of which \$24 million is available for fiscal year 2002-03. To date, the SBE has approved funding commitments in the amount of \$64.9 million through the vehicles of two combined (start-up, implementation, and dissemination) and one stand-alone (dissemination) grant cycles. A copy of the RFA is available for review in the Charter Schools Office.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

Dissemination grants are awarded to successful charter schools to share best practices with other public schools (charter and traditional) and to assist developing charter schools. In 2002, CDE began administering a continuous application filing system for the PCSGP dissemination grants, with application reading and scoring occurring three times a year. This change is intended to make applying for dissemination grants easier and consequently, to increase the availability of dissemination grant projects to public charter and traditional schools.

The application deadline for the latest dissemination (only) grant cycle was November 29, 2002. The CDE received six dissemination grant applications. Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) data and Academic Performance Index (API) rankings were factors of consideration for eligibility. A peer review scoring of the grant applications was completed on December 31, 2002. Each application was read and scored at least twice using the five-criteria scoring rubrics for the dissemination grants. The scores for each application were averaged for a final score, and applications were ranked in descending order.

The three recommended recipients are successful schools as determined by their applications and API or SAT 9 scores. API scores of the schools range from 695 to 884. One of the schools earned a "similar school" score of 9, and the remaining two schools earned "similar school" scores of 10. One recipient is from Northern California and two are from Southern California. These project-based grants will provide assistance and share best practices in the areas of teaching strategies, curriculum, and arts education.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

CDE recommends funding the following dissemination grant applicants for a total two-year funding commitment of \$599,305:

County: San Diego
LEA: San Diego City USD
School: The Preuss School, UCSD
Award: \$199,305

County: Santa Cruz
LEA: Santa Cruz COE
School: Pacific Collegiate School
Award: \$200,000

County: Los Angeles
LEA: Los Angeles USD
School: Baldwin Hills Charter/LEARN Elementary and Magnet School
Award: \$200,000

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

N/A

Attachment(s) to this Agenda Item